

could have avoided, nor has he ever been able to hear of the detection of one by other workers.

Choulant's second great work was his "Geschichte und Bibliographie der anatomischen Abbildung" (Leipzig, 1852). This useful reference book has always appealed to a somewhat wider public than his "Handbuch der Bücherkunde." While no less accurate than its fellow, the lacunæ have become more serious with time. Notably, the curious and interesting subject of medieval anatomical illustration, entirely unknown in Choulant's day, has been created in our own time mainly by the labours of Sudhoff. Dr. Mortimer Frank, a learned young ophthalmologist of Chicago, therefore, in preparing a translation of Choulant's work, attempted to bring it up to date and to bridge the gaps. Frank's death at the age of forty-four, before his work reached the press, prevented his task from being quite so thoroughly finished as he himself had designed, but he had time to add a most valuable chapter on the medieval illustrations and to supplement largely Choulant's references. He has thus rendered yeoman service to the study of medical history. The work has been seen through the press by the accomplished historian, Col. F. H. Garrison, of the Surgeon-General's Library, assisted by Dr. E. C. Streeter, and these two writers have added useful chapters on anatomical illustration since Choulant, and on sculpture and painting as modes of anatomical illustration. The book is admirably illustrated and printed, and in its present form entirely replaces the original edition. ,

CHARLES SINGER.

Our Bookshelf.

Some Birds of the Countryside: The Art of Nature. By H. J. Massingham. Pp. 208. (London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd., 1921.) 12s. 6d. net.

ALL lovers of open-air Nature, and especially those of birds, will thank Mr. Massingham for putting together in one handy little volume those charming articles of which some have already been published in the *Spectator*, *Contemporary Review*, and elsewhere. Throughout the book the reader is by felicitous phrase and by the in-born sympathy of the author with Nature in all her moods transported into the "field"; yes, even when the chapter is entitled "Bird-haunted London." With singular literary skill Mr. Massingham presents his pictures, whether of landscape or of his favourite birds, so vividly that scene, incident, and character live in the reader's mental vision. No writer of our acquaintance has succeeded better in seeing into and interpreting the behaviour of birds, and that without undue anthropomorphism. But the reading of

character extends beyond a nice and artistic sympathy with feathered life, for the chapters on "Gilbert White and Selborne" and "Charles Waterton" are masterly appreciations of two diametrically different naturalists. In each we end the chapter feeling that we know the man better than ever before, and understand why the fame of one, but not that of the other, has widely endured. If we may be allowed one critical request, it is to entreat Mr. Massingham not to use the word "intrigue" when "interest" will do just as well—indeed, much better. The latter is English, and the former is, we devoutly trust, a mere passing affectation. The book is, however, a very notable addition to the literature of natural history, and should find a place in every library, large or small.

London Trees. By A. D. Webster. Pp. xii+218+32 plates. (London: The Swarthmore Press, 1920.) 15s. net.

LONDONERS owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Webster for this book. Not until its pages have been read will one in a thousand of the inhabitants of the Metropolis have any conception of the variety of trees that grow within its limits. The ubiquitousness of the plane and its surpassing merit as a London tree are apt to give the impression that there is little else. It is, of course, the fact that many of the more uncommon species are hidden away in private or semi-private grounds. The garden of Fulham Palace, for instance, is classic ground to students of trees, for here in the early years of the eighteenth century grew the finest collection of trees in Britain, planted by Compton, then Bishop of London. Fulham is a place very different from what it was 200 years ago, but even now, Mr. Webster tells us, the grounds there are rich in rare and curious trees, some probably the finest in London.

The book consists of two parts. The first and larger is an alphabetical list of London trees briefly but, for the general reader, sufficiently described, with information as to where they are to be found. The second deals with parks, squares, and other open spaces, both public and private, and mentions the more notable trees to be found in each. There are a few errors; the old but exploded idea that the common elm was introduced by the Romans is revived; the author says *Celtis australis* is well represented in the London area, but we doubt if he could find a single tree; nor will the statement that *Platanus occidentalis* occurs in considerable numbers throughout London find general acceptance.

W. J. B.

The Statesman's Year-Book, 1921. Edited by Sir J. Scott Keltie and Dr. M. Epstein. Fifty-eighth annual publication. Revised after official returns. Pp. xlv+1544. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1921.) 20s. net.

THE fifty-eighth annual issue of this indispensable year-book is before us, and, as usual, it has been revised up to the eve of going to press. The amount of information is no less noteworthy than

the care with which it is edited and the consequent absence of errors. As in previous editions, the volume consists of three parts dealing respectively with the British Empire, the United States, and other countries. The States of the world, enjoying more or less independent rank, now number sixty-four, counting the British Empire as one. Since the last edition of the book the list has been increased by Esthonia, Georgia, Latvia, and Fiume, while Montenegro has been sunk in Yugoslavia, or, to use its unwieldy official name, the Serb, Croat, and Slovene State. Irak, Palestine, and Armenia, as well as some of the amorphous States in process of emerging from the Russian ruin, are still placed under the countries of which formerly they were constituent parts. The information respecting Russia has been furnished from official Soviet sources, but that Government seems unable to provide recent statistics for Siberia. Of the two maps, one shows the Baltic and adjacent States, including the new access of Finland to the Arctic Ocean, and the other shows the Slesvig boundary adjustment. The introductory tables give statistics of the British Empire for 1919-20, the world's production of gold, silver, sugar, etc., the distribution of shipping and naval strength, and other useful information. The covenant of the League of Nations is given in full, and there is a list of the treaties of peace and official publications thereon.

Advanced Lessons in Practical Physiology for Students of Medicine. By Dr. R. Burton-Opitz. Pp. 238. (Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Co., 1920.) 18s. net.

No subject in the medical curriculum affords so great a variety in the scope and manner of its presentation as does that of experimental physiology. Probably no two schools are alike in their treatment of this fundamental branch of medical training.

Dr. Burton-Opitz's text-book describes a course which strikes one as being too comprehensive. Omitting physiological chemistry, it takes the student over a range of experimental work beginning with the nerve-muscle preparation of the frog and passing to more advanced experiments, such as cerebral localisation and gastro-enterostomy in the living mammal. The course is adapted to the requirements of Columbia University, and, if faithfully followed by the student, takes him far into the practical details of medicine and surgery; but most teachers in this country are satisfied if they give the student a good grounding in some part of the subject and illustrate the more important animal experiments by demonstration. Our laws, indeed, prevent the student from carrying out much of the experimental work which is possible in America.

The course is divided into fifty lessons, for each of which the author states in his preface three hours should be available. One may be permitted to doubt if the student can digest the amount of material prescribed, and few medical schools are

in possession of the staff and equipment necessary. The book contains little theory, and the practical directions are in some instances very brief, but they are intended to be supplemented by lectures and demonstrations. The book is not one that will be much used in this country, but it contains valuable suggestions, and will be a useful addition to the literature of the laboratory.

P. T. HERRING.

Papers Set in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1919. Pp. iv+57. (Cambridge: At the University Press, 1920.) 4s. net.

THE student of engineering is by implication a student of branches of science such as mechanics, thermodynamics, electricity, etc., but he studies these subjects from a point of view differing widely from that of the student of pure science. In view of the vast importance of engineering and other technological practice in modern life, there may be some danger of the claims of science as such being somewhat disregarded, and it is therefore of interest to see in what way representative schools of engineering in this country deal with the pure science that enters into their curricula. We get an insight into this by means of the examination papers that are set for honours students in engineering, and the Cambridge University Press affords us an opportunity of doing so in connection with the Cambridge school of engineering. The papers included in the present publication are on applied mechanics, heat, theory of structures, and electricity. The questions demand a sound knowledge of the physical theory of each subject and of its mathematical development, while at the same time they presuppose a close acquaintance with the practical applications for engineering purposes.

Insanity and Mental Deficiency in Relation to Legal Responsibility: A Study in Psychological Jurisprudence. By Dr. W. G. H. Cook. Pp. xxiv+192. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd.; New York: E. P. Dutton and Co., 1921.) 10s. 6d. net.

MUCH has been written on the responsibility of insane and feeble-minded persons for criminal offences, but Dr. Cook has broken more novel ground in bringing together all available evidence on the difficult question of civil responsibility, a subject which has been rarely dealt with as a whole. In doing so he makes a survey of more than two hundred leading cases and of the laws of many foreign countries. The results thus summarised may, as Sir John Macdonnell, late Senior Master of the High Court of Justice, states in a foreword, "prepare the way for a re-statement of our law in accordance with the teaching of modern psychology." It would be beyond the scope of NATURE critically to review this work, but we may agree with the words from the foreword already quoted, that it will "educate professional opinion, and help to reconcile the lawyer, the physician, and the psychologist."